A COLLEGE IS NAMED

a message from
Ansley Cunningham Moore,
President

The Presbyterians of North Carolina are merging three of their colleges and consequently are building on a new campus at Laurinburg what they believe will be a finer liberal arts school based upon the traditions of the consolidating institutions.

This new four year college has been known in these early days of the planning by the temporary name "Consolidated Presbyterian College." A new name has been selected by the Board of the College. It is "St. Andrews Presbyterian College."

The Majesty Of a Name

There is a majesty about a good name. In the Bible the name of God is more than a title. It represents His revealed character and will. The writers of Scripture cry again and again, "Bless his holy *name*!" It is no whim that "a good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." The name of an institution has much to do with the image the public holds of that institution.

No name has everything, but this name of ours—St. Andrews Presbyterian College—is good. It has no geographical connotation—this college belongs to all of North Carolina. The name is not whimsical or odd. It has a good history with its roots reaching deep in the Bible and in both Protestant and Presbyterian history.

Our name committee of the Board thought about this matter of naming the college for five years and they considered each of the fifty-five suggestions submitted to it. What they sought was a name to stir the imagination, a name to symbolize something profound in our Presbyterian history, a name to portend our future. "St. Andrews" is all of this.

On the practical side, those selecting a name wanted one that would trip off the tongue smoothly and one that is euphonious. This name meets these demands.

Of course, there are many good names for colleges, but it should be borne in mind that there are over 1,900 colleges and universities in America and almost every suitable name is now used by several institutions.

The Presbyterian Heritage

Why call a *Presbyterian* college "St. Andrews"?

The name "St. Andrews" is steeped in Presbyterian and in Protestant history. The University of St. Andrews, at St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, is the oldest university in Scotland, founded in 1411. In 1527 Patrick Hamilton was burned at the stake in this town for his Protestant views. Several hundred Protestants were slain for their Reformed faith. This so incensed the faculty of St. Leonard's College, one of the divisions of St. Andrews University, that its members became solidly Protestant.

In 1559, after being released from the galleys, John Knox returned to Scotland. He preached in St. Andrews and aroused his audience to such a pitch that they emptied the cathedral of its tombs, monuments, and altars, leaving the building an empty shell. During the Reformation, the student body of St. Andrews declined but the university continued largely because St. Andrews is "the nursery of Scottish erudition."

The name "Andrew" is Greek and means "manhood" or "valor." A college bearing this name must be characterized in its intellectual life by boldness, firmness, courage. Surely this would be a heritage, a guide, a stimulus for any institution of higher learning.

The Biblical Background

Andrew, the disciple of our Lord, recognized Jesus as the Messiah and introduced to him his brother, Simon Peter. Our college has a two-fold purpose: developing the intellectual life and inspiring students, through personal confrontation, to accept Jesus Christ by faith as their personal Saviour and Lord. Bearing the name of Andrew will help us remember that we stand in an important tradition and have a weighty responsibility in witnessing to the power of Christ in the lives of men.

Summarizing, this college now a-borning here in the south-central part of the state where the two

Carolinas meet is christened "St. Andrews Presbyterian College" because this name has an admirable Biblical heritage of witnessing which we will try to live up to. It has a fine Protestant background which will challenge us every day to live in our personal lives and to teach in our classrooms the truths of our Reformed faith.

Saints Belong to All

Some Presbyterians may object to the use of the word "Saint."

We wonder why? If Scotland, since 1411, and the Scottish church since its founding, can live with "St. Andrews", surely we can live with it. We have no desire to be more Protestant than Scotland. Moreover, Presbyterians have looked to "St. Matthew," "St. Mark," "St. Luke," and "St. John" in the King James version of the Bible throughout much of the life of our denomination. Presbyterians do not surrender the saints to any other branch of the church. St. Augustine, St. Columba, and St. Francis belong to all of Christendom.

We are all familiar with the Scottish organizations here in America called "St. Andrews Societies." Presbyterians have named their local churches for Saints because, as Mary L. Boney says in *Presbyterian Woman's Workbook,* ". . . 'saints' as used in the New Testament means "Christians.'" Paul, in addressing Philippians, referred to "all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi." He was not thinking of a special class of people long dead, but of members of the church set apart by God to be his own special people. Notable examples of churches in our denomination named for saints are St. Paul in Charlotte, Greensboro and St. Paul; St. Andrews in Henderson, Sanford and Wilmington; and St. Giles Presbyterian churches in Charlotte and in Richmond, Va.

There is no other fully accredited, four year, senior college in America, so far as the writer knows, bearing this name.

It is a good name. It will demand much of us as we build a quality college. We shall try to be worthy of it.

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